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DESTRUCTION OF PREDATORY ANIMALS FOR
SUPPRESSION OF RABIES.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, SUBMITTING AN URGENT ESTIMATE FOR DESTRUCTION OF PREDATORY ANIMALS FOR SUPPRESSION OF RABIES.

JANUARY 26, 1916.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 26, 1916.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, of this date, submitting an urgent estimate of appropriation, for inclusion in the urgent deficiency bill now pending, for destruction of predatory animals for suppression of rabies, \$75,000.

Respectfully,

W. G. McAdoo, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., January 26, 1916.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

SIR: There has been a serious outbreak of rabies among coyotes, wolves, and other predatory animals in the Northwestern States. The disease is now prevalent in four States and is spreading rapidly. Reports agree that these animals have communicated the disease to a number of people and many domestic animals. While most of the people who have contracted the disease in this way have been saved

through proper treatment, there have been heavy losses among live stock. When the department's estimates were under consideration, the situation was not serious and it was thought that, with the funds already available, the matter could be handled in connection with the regular work of the department. Recently, however, the situation has become acute and it is now apparent that the States concerned will be unable to cope with it on account of the widespread area involved. It is likewise apparent that the department's funds are insufficient to enable it to cooperate effectively with the States in the suppression of the disease. It is essential that an additional sum of \$75,000 be made immediately available to the department. I have the honor, therefore, to inclose herewith, for transmission to the Congress to be included in the urgent deficiency bill, an estimate of an appropriation required to meet the emergency. For this item, the following language is suggested:

To meet the emergency caused by the prevalence and continued spread of rabies in wolves, coyotes, and other predatory wild animals, which is being communicated by them to stock and other domestic animals, on the public lands, national forests, and elsewhere in the Western and Northwestern States, by the destruction of such wild animals, \$75,000; and the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to incur such expense and to employ such persons and means, as, in his judgment, may be necessary to enable him to carry out the purposes of this appropriation.

Rabies among coyotes and other wild animals in the Northwestern States appears to have originated in northeastern Oregon or southeastern Washington about 1910. Since that time it has spread toward the south through southeastern Oregon, northeastern California, Idaho, and Nevada, and is now threatening Utah. The disease is reported to have developed in these regions in coyotes and wild animals and in dogs, cats, horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs. The area in which the disease is known to be present among wild animals covers a distance of approximately 400 miles from north to south and 250 miles from east to west. The infected area is continually increasing.

The appropriation act for the Department of Agriculture for 1916 carried an item of \$280,000 for certain general purposes and provided that of this amount not less than \$125,000 shall be used on the national forests and public domain in destroying wolves and other predatory animals injurious to agriculture and animal husbandry. Under this appropriation the Western States have been divided into districts, each in charge of an inspector who is employing a force of hunters and trappers to destroy the predatory animals. The work is being conducted in most of the Western States, including the rabies-infested territory in Utah, Nevada, Idaho, California, Oregon, and Washington. The extent of the rabies epidemic in Nevada has resulted in the concentration of effort there under this appropriation, and the hunters employed in that State have been increased to 50. In all the States mentioned the employees of the department are cooperating, so far as possible, with the local officials. The amount which can be used in attacking the rabies problem is small and inadequate, and the plans already made for the general work in the territory infested by predatory animals exhausts our available funds. It is impracticable to discontinue work being done in the general field. In fact, our plans have progressed so far that it would be impossible to abandon them or to use the entire appropriation for



the suppression of rabies. If the rabies situation is to be attacked properly, an emergency appropriation must be made. The department can efficiently expend the sum of \$75,000 in the destruction of predatory animals in the rabies-infested territory during the present fiscal year. The expenditure of this sum in cooperation with the States concerned undoubtedly would result in great relief.

It should be pointed out that the estimate herein made will provide for the work only during the remainder of the present fiscal year. If sufficient funds are provided, it is believed practicable to eliminate the danger from the disease and to control its spread, provided, of course, the State authorities continue to enforce drastic measures for controlling dogs and other domestic animals. It will be necessary to continue the work during the next fiscal year and an additional sum of at least \$125,000 should be made available beginning July 1, 1916. Unless this be done, the value of much of the work during the present fiscal year will be lost.

Very respectfully,

D. F. HOUSTON, *Secretary.*

Estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30 1916, by the Department of Agriculture.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Destruction of predatory animals for suppression of rabies—

To meet the emergency caused by the prevalence and continued spread of rabies in wolves, coyotes, and other predatory wild animals, which is being communicated by them to stock and other domestic animals, on the public lands, national forests, and elsewhere, in the Western and Northwestern States, by the destruction of such wild animals, \$75,000; and the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to incur such expense and to employ such persons and means as in his judgment may be necessary to enable him to carry out the purposes of this appropriation..... \$75,000



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